

REMARKS

Claims 24 and 25 stand rejected in the outstanding Official Action. Claims 24 and 25 have been amended and therefore remain in this application. The Examiner's consideration of the prior art previously submitted by applicants on the appropriate Information Disclosure Statements is very much appreciated. However, it would be further appreciated if the Examiner would confirm the acknowledgment of applicants' claim for foreign priority under the appropriate section on the Office Action Summary sheet.

Claims 24 and 25 stand rejected under 35 USC §112 (first paragraph) as containing subject matter allegedly not described in the specification. Specifically, the Examiner states that "the specification does not disclose the surface region has a sheet resistivity greater than $100 \Omega \text{ m}^{-1}$ immediately prior to the anodizing step." The Examiner's attention is directed to page 7, line 29, of applicants' specification as originally filed and the statement "the surface region has a sheet resistivity greater than $100 \Omega^{-1}$ immediately prior to the anodization step."

Applicants note that the published copy of the PCT application does not appear to include a box ("□") located between Ω and the "⁻¹" symbol. It is noted that where this box symbol is used on page 13, at lines 14, 15 and 17, portions of the box have been reproduced, but not the entire box. However, this box is present in the PCT application as originally filed and, in conjunction with the superscript, is a shorthand for "per square." The notation " Ω per square" is a well known term of art denoting sheet

resistivity. Applicants attaches hereto a photocopy of a portion of the *ESD Journal* explaining that this is the currently preferred method of expressing the units of sheet resistivity.

Applicants have amended page 7, line 29, page 13, lines 14, 15 and 17, and claim 24 to recite " Ω per square" as the increments of sheet resistivity consistent with the terminology of the *ESD Journal*. Accordingly, any further objection to claims 24 and 25 based upon the specification allegedly failing to describe the claimed subject matter is respectfully traversed.

Claims 24 and 25 further stand rejected under 35 USC §112 (second paragraph) as being indefinite. Specifically, the Examiner inquires as to what is meant by "at least a part of the region has an acceptor impurity volume concentration comparable with the solid solubility limit of the acceptor impurity in silicon is **satisfied**." Applicants note that the cited portion of applicants' independent claim 24 is a statement of a condition which must be met by the three previously recited steps, i.e. the recited condition (i) "is satisfied." The condition is that "at least a part of the region has an acceptor impurity volume concentration comparable with the solid solubility limit of the acceptor impurity in silicon." Applicants have rewritten this portion of the claim in order to clarify that a condition (i) is satisfied and then the condition (i) is defined.

Applicants have also additionally amended claim 24 to avoid the alternative claiming of "one or more" so that it now reads "at least one." Additionally, applicants have deleted the alternative language "and/or" even though there is no objection to such

language contained in the Official Action. Similar amendments have been made in claim 25.

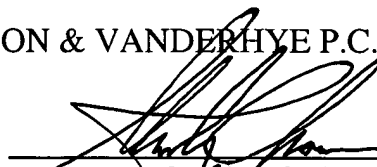
Accordingly, the above amendments clearly obviate any further objection or rejection of claims 24 and 25 and in view of the failure to cite any pertinent prior art, these claims are believed clearly patentable as currently amended.

Having responded to all objections and rejections set forth in the outstanding Official Action, it is submitted that claims 24 and 25 are in condition for allowance and notice to that effect is respectfully solicited. In the event the Examiner is of the opinion that a telephone or personal interview will facilitate allowance of these claims, he is respectfully requested to contact applicants' undersigned representative.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosure: ESD Journal (3 pages)